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APPLICANTS:	Hammond et al.		
SERIAL NUMBER:	09/543,188	EXAMINER:	S. Turner
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FOR:	Prion-binding Ligands and Methods of Using Same		

July 23, 2001

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as set forth below and consider the following remarks:

In the Claims:

a1

9. (Amended) The peptide ligand of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide comprises a retro-inverso isomer of the amino acid sequence D(GGHPQGWG) (SEQ ID NO:34).

In the Specification:

On page 7, replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 with the following:

a2

For example, in various embodiments, the peptide ligands are D retro-inverso peptides. The term "retro-inverso isomer" refers to an isomer of a linear peptide in which the direction of the sequence is reversed and the chirality of each amino acid residue is inverted. *See, e.g.*, Jameson *et al.*, *Nature*, 368: 744-746 (1994); Brady *et al.*, Nature, 368: 692-693 (1994). The net result of combining D-enantiomers and reverse synthesis is that the positions of carbonyl and amino groups in each amide bond are exchanged, while the position of the side-chain groups at each alpha carbon is preserved. Unless specifically stated otherwise, it is presumed that any given L-amino acid sequence of the invention may be made into an D retro-inverso peptide by synthesizing a reverse of the sequence for the corresponding native L-amino acid sequence. To illustrate, if the peptide model is the prion binding ligand peptide 110: IQIWIF (SEQ ID NO:21), formed of L-amino acids, the retro-inverso peptide analog of this peptide (formed of D-amino acids) would have the sequence, FIWIQI (SEQ ID NO:38).